

Peterson, Bobbye

From: Joseph Accettullo <bluhound@me.com>
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To: JudTestimony
Subject: Joseph Raymond Accettullo opposing sb1085 and hb7371

My name is Joseph Raymond I'm speaking on behalf of New England Craft Cannabis Alliance (NECCA) I am here to oppose language as written in SB1085 and HB7371 that being said we would like to make some suggestions that would make these bills more fair, equitable and inclusive so that we can support them

1. Keep Corporate Cannabis lobbyists out of policy making .

These lobbyists represent what is known in the cannabis industry as "Multi-state operators" in the context of Connecticut they are specifically the four existing growers from the medicinal program who for collective lobby purposes have formed the "Connecticut Medicinal Cannabis Council" and are represented by Lobbyist "Linda Kowalski" and her "Kowalski Group". Their lobby strategy is what I like to call "Corporate Equity" and eliminates any type of home grow while at the same time eliminates social equity (see CureCt testimony). Allowing "CMCC" the privilege to be first operators in the Connecticut recreational market by using their existing medicinal facilities and licenses to make quick revenue for the state is a huge mistake and will infuriate every advocate. I can't express enough how dangerous this really is. First for the patients who have already seen shortage after shortage of important medicine. These corporations as of January 2019 have all gone public in the Canadian Securities Exchange by reverse mergers with shell companies that were already listed on the "CSE". For example "Green Thumb Industries" acquired "Bayswater Uranium" through reverse merger in order to be listed publicly on the "CSE". Reverse Mergers are a fraudsters dream as they are not cleared through the "CSE securities commission" there is minimal regulatory oversight compared to launching with an "initial public offering" or "ipo". This lack of oversight by the CSE attracts criminal types like known Russian oligarch Boris Jordan chief investor of "Sputnik investments" and now chairman of "Curaleaf holding". Please lawmakers be cautious! These corporations use extremely predatory practices in their attempt to monopolize legal cannabis markets. Boris Jordan has compared the U.S. cannabis boom to the fall of the Soviet Union in the 1990's when he and other oligarchs came in and dominated whole industries with lots of capital and lightning fast acquisitions. I have thoroughly followed the money and am willing to share my research. I think certain policy makers are being led down the wrong path.

2. Add Grow Rights

By eliminating grow rights you're feeding into the CMCC's strategy to be the primary caregiver of both the medicinal and recreational markets. Like any other craft "cannabis cultivation" has many nuances to it and growing skills are many times built on a hobby level this is where the craft grower can "hone their craft". The "CMCC" also lobbies against home grow because it's an incubator to successful craft cannabis in states like Oregon and California. Just like craft brewers may get their start in their homes experimenting with recipes craft growers try to grow the ultimate cultivar in small contained tents and spaces in their homes. Home grow is not just a hobby but also gives ability to ingest clean soil grown organic cannabis which by the way is far superior to its commercial counterpart in taste and smell further lessening the value of "CMCC's" subpar product. Also grow rights can act as an incubator for successful local businesses to bloom owned by actual residents of Connecticut and not some out of state investors. Furthermore no grow rights reinforces years of bad policy that led to

arrests,incarceration,stigma and subsequent trauma that your constituents have already unfairly endured.The act of growing your own cannabis is therapeutic and symbiotic.Cannabis has become culture in New England and should be respected as such! We suggest 12 plants for every resident 21 and over.

3. Micro-Licensing

California is currently rectifying there mistakes and poorly planned policy with the implementation of Micro licensing and boutique licensing.These licenses are a portal to the success of competitive small businesses in every state they are offered in.We have a sister organization "Craft Cannabis Alliance of Oregon" who are very active in the flourishing craft cannabis industry and advocacy of Oregon and are more then willing to offer there experience based insight as well.

4. Bring in the advocates!

CureCt,CtNorml,NECCA and so many individual advocates are your tools to fair and equitable policy.Corporations are just targeting our dollars by any means necessary and those dollars leave the state!On the other hand you have one of the most dedicated,knowledgeable and passionate group of cannabis advocates in the country so use us to help you modify this bill so we can support it! Because as they stand they are both dead.

Joseph Raymond
~Founder/Director~
New England Craft Cannabis Alliance